
Name of Organization: Lake Michigan Federation

Type of Organization: Other

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Project Title: Natural Resource Damage Assessment Citizens' Guide

Project Category: Contaminated Sediments

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 1

Total Funding Requested (\$): 50,000 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

Abstract:

The purpose of this project is to develop a citizens' guide to help citizens leverage the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process to restore contaminated sediment sites. In this way, the NRDA process can be used to help bolster Superfund cleanup efforts. Many citizens are unaware of NRDA's potential to promote restoration and accountability for resource damages. Citizens must understand how best to be part of this process so environmental agencies can have public backup for restoration efforts. This project will complement the Lake Michigan Federation's (LMF's) White Lake Contaminated Sediment Outreach Project, Sheboygan River & Harbor Technical Assistance Grant (TAG), Community Decision-Making in Contaminated Sediment Cleanups project (with Sierra Club and Grand Cal Task Force), and a range of emerging local efforts to improve community involvement in Lake Michigan Basin Areas of Concern (AOCs). The guide also could be made available for the U.S. EPA's website and other electronic media.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio

Lakes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

Geographic Initiatives:

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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Primary Affected Area of Concern: All AOCs

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

The NRDA process presents a mechanism for promoting accountability of parties responsible for contamination and restoration of natural resources impaired by contaminated sediments. As such, the NRDA can bolster agencies' Superfund efforts to remediate contaminated sites and garner public support. The NRDA involves multiple agencies and trustees, which can make it difficult for citizens to identify a point of contact, understand agency responsibilities and roles, and follow the restoration process. Previous work by LMF, Sierra Club, and the Grand Cal Task Force has identified difficulties in understanding and participating in agency procedures as one of the major barriers to public support for sediment cleanup.

Momentum is building to clean up contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes ecosystem. The President's 2001 budget proposal for funding to clean up Great Lakes AOCs provides renewed recognition that contaminated sediments in all AOCs must be addressed. Cleanup plans are in progress on the Sheboygan River & Harbor, for which LMF is the TAG coordinator, and the Indiana Harbor & Canal, for which LMF coordinated comments from various stakeholders on the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The NRDA for Green Bay/Fox River has maintained an incentive for a cleanup that, at least in the past, suffered from a lack of momentum. For example, trustees conducted a Value Equivalency Assessment that included a scaling of the selected restoration projects and public input on the restoration projects to be selected. NRDA has shown the citizens that agencies are willing to act and, in turn, has motivated citizens to support cleanup. NRDA will continue to be an integral part of full restoration at many sites. As communities around the Lake Michigan Basin begin to contribute to the cleanup and restoration of their natural resources, they need to understand the tools available to them and how best to leverage them.

Proposed Work Outcome:

LMF proposes to develop a guide that will explain the NRDA process and how citizen involvement can support agency efforts to restore natural resources, like wetlands and fisheries. The guide will help citizens use the NRDA to identify opportunities to create or improve habitat and to prevent future contamination, in keeping with the restoration goals of the Lakewide Area Management Plans (LAMPs). For example, citizens can advocate for the creation or restoration of wetlands or state protected habitat. The guide also will explain how NRDA can advance accountability of responsible parties for impaired resources and how it differs from and complements Superfund efforts for sites on the National Priorities List.

The guide will be written in straightforward language and adopt a user-friendly format. LMF also could make the guide available to citizens on-line. For example, it could be linked to the Lake Michigan Atlas, planned by the U.S. EPA and Great Lakes Commission. The guide also will reflect ongoing lessons learned about public involvement through LMF's

extensive work in AOCs around Lake Michigan. As citizens become more educated about the NRDA and how it functions as part of overall cleanup, the cleanup can move along more smoothly and quickly. In addition, because citizens often have knowledge about their local sites before they were contaminated, they can help begin and inform the assessment process.

Project Milestones:

Dates:

Project Start	10/2000
Outreach to organizations, agencies, etc	11/2000
Develop draft citizens' guide	12/2000
Complete draft for advisory group review	05/2000
Complete citizens' guide	07/2000
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	/
Project End	/

☒ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

Contaminated sediment cleanup projects are frequently underfunded and must rely on landfilling, sometimes in communities of color. NRDA's ability to turn to parties responsible for contaminated sediments offers hope that enhanced funding may be able to provide permanent solutions to sediment cleanup, thereby reducing the likelihood of environmental justice concerns.

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

The target audience for this project is AOC communities throughout the Lake Michigan Basin. The guide will help these communities and others around the Great Lakes understand the NRDA mechanisms for restoration. The project will reach a broader Great Lakes audience by making the citizens' guide available to and via the Lake Michigan Atlas, Lake Michigan Forum, Great Lakes Information Network, and LMF's web site, for example. LMF may seek a separate grant to conduct citizens' workshops in relevant Lake Michigan contaminated sediment sites in cooperation with our organizational partners that are part of the Lake Michigan Community Council (Council), our congress of watershed and community-based organizations around Lake Michigan. Using the citizens' guide, LMF may seek funding in the future to conduct education workshops on the NRDA process.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	18,545	0
Fringe:	3,185	0
Travel:	1,000	0
Equipment:	1,000	0
Supplies:	720	0
Contracts:	9,000	0
Construction:	0	0
Other:	3,500	10,234
Total Direct Costs:	36,950	10,234
Indirect Costs:	13,050	0
Total:	50,000	10,234
Projected Income:	0	234

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

The Joyce Foundation has provided \$175,000 per year for two years, some of which will be used to supplement this NRDA preproposal, to fund LMF to assist and coordinate our Council partners in their efforts to eliminate toxins, like contaminated sediments. Through another grant from the Joyce Foundation to develop a broader and coordinated contaminated sediment campaign, LMF, Coast Alliance, Grand Cal Task Force, and Sierra Club Great Lakes Program have recommended the development of an NRDA citizens' guide. \$10,000 from these two efforts will be used to match this preproposal.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

LMF will rely on specific Council partners active in community sediment cleanup efforts, such as the Grand Cal Task Force and Sierra Club Great Lakes Program, to provide input on the citizens' guide development. LMF will identify project advisors and/or reviewers from an AOC, such as Green Bay/Fox River trustees, who have experience with the NRDA process. We also will seek input from the Lake Michigan Forum and other Great Lakes organizations, such as Great Lakes United. In the second phase, LMF could call upon its Council partners to help coordinate and host the citizens' workshops.